



Identity Theft

- Growing problem for taxpayers
- Help clients minimize their risk of becoming victims
- Obtain IRS assistance and resources

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Identity Theft

A Serious Crime

- Occurs when someone obtains and uses another person's personal data without their knowledge to commit fraud or deception.
- Identity thieves may apply for loans or credit cards using the stolen information.

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Cost to Victims

- Time
- Money
- Hardship

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Hardship to Victims

- Loss of job opportunities
- Refusal of loans, educational opportunities, housing or credit cards
- Arrest for crimes

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Identity Theft A Tax Crime

- Refund – Describe Crime
- Employment – Describe Crime

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Help Clients Minimize Risks

- Protect Social Security Numbers
- Protect personal data
- Protect identity from being stolen in the workplace

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What should victims do?

- Contact the Federal Trade Commission
www.consumer.gov/idtheft/index.html
- Close accounts
- File a police report

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Credit Reporting Bureaus

- Equifax

➤ www.equifax.com

- Experian

➤ www.experian.com

- Trans Union

➤ www.transunion.com

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IRS Assistance

- Criminal Investigation Division
 - Refund Crimes Unit
- IRS Notices
- IRS does not request sensitive information via email

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Treasury policy and information

- Phishing
- DVD
- White House – Commitments

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Taxpayer Advocate Assistance

- 1-877-777-4778
- Contact your local TAS office

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Additional Resources and Contacts

- Free Credit Reports
- IRS.gov
- SSA.gov

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